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Feeble-minded and epileptics in institutions...

[Washington]

[1926]

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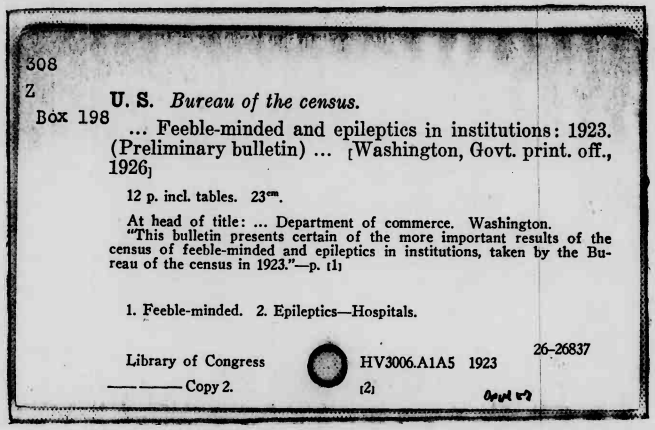

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

FEEBLE-MINDED AND EPILEPTICS IN INSTITUTIONS: 1923

(PRELIMINARY BULLETIN)

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This bulletin presents certain of the more important results of the census of feeble-minded and epileptics in institutions, taken by the Bureau of the Census in 1923. Additional statistics will be presented in the complete report, now in press.

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

The total number of special institutions covered by the census was 139. Of this number, 122 were institutions for the feeble-minded and 17 were institutions for epileptics. In addition, there were 2 State and 12 Federal hospitals for mental disease that returned schedules for feeble-minded, and 3 State and 12 Federal hospitals for mental disease that returned schedules for epileptics.

Of the 122 special institutions for the feeble-minded, 55 were State institutions, 1 was a city institution, and 66 were private institutions; and of the 17 special institutions for epileptics, 10 were State institutions and 7 were private institutions.

The institutional care of the feeble-minded and epileptics is very largely a public matter. Of the 51,731 resident patients[1] for whom schedules were received only 3,788, or 7.3 per cent, were in private institutions; 46,580, or 90 per cent, were in State institutions; and 1,363, or 2.6 per cent, in other public institutions. Of the 8,680 first admissions during 1922, only 795, or 9.2 per cent, entered private institutions; 7,467, or 86 per cent, were received in State hospitals; and 418, or 4.8 per cent, in other public institutions.

[1] This is the number of patients in special institutions for the feeble-minded and the epileptic, comprising 42,954 in institutions for the feeble-minded and 8,777 in institutions for epileptics. There were in addition 18,829 feeble-minded and 10,016 epileptics in hospitals for the insane, and 12,183 feeble-minded and 1,066 epileptics in almshouses, making a grand total of 93,825 feeble-minded and epileptics in the various types of institutions covered by the census.

PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED

NUMBER OF PATIENTS

Table 1 gives the number of feeble-minded in special institutions for the feeble-minded in 1923, 1910, and 1904. The number of such persons per 100,000 of the total population increased from 17.5 in 1904 to 39.3 in 1923. This marked increase doubtless resulted largely from the increased institutional facilities and the more general use of institutions in recent years. It does not either prove or disprove the popular belief that feeble-mindedness is on the increase.

In addition to the 42,954 feeble-minded shown in the table, there were also 6,750 feeble-minded epileptic patients in institutions for epileptics.

TABLE 1.—FEEBLE-MINDED PATIENTS IN SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED: 1923, 1910, AND 1904

YEAR	Number	Per 100,000 of total population
1923	42,954	39.3
1910	20,731	22.5
1904	14,347	17.5

COLOR OR RACE

In the white population, as shown by Table 2, the number of feeble-minded resident patients per 100,000 of the population increased from 25 in 1910 to 44.2 in 1923; while among the negroes the increase was from 2.8 in 1910 to 9.4 in 1923. Whether any increase in the actual frequency of feeble-mindedness in the population of either of the two races has taken place during this period is not known. The comparatively low rate shown for negroes is probably due mainly to the fact that most of the Southern States either had no State institution for the feeble-minded or had institutions only recently opened.

TABLE 2.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, BY COLOR OR RACE: 1923 AND 1910

COLOR OR RACE	1923			1910		
	Number	Per cent distribution	Per 100,000 of same race	Number	Per cent distribution	Per 100,000 of same race
Total	42,954	100.0	40.6	20,731	100.0	22.5
White	41,936	97.6	44.2	20,441	98.6	25.0
Negro	980	2.3	9.4	280	1.4	2.8
All other[1]	38	0.1	8.9	10	(2)	2.4

[1] Comprises Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and unknown.
[2] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE

Table 3 shows that in the case of each nativity and parentage group there was a notable increase between 1910 and 1923 in the ratio of resident white patients. The low ratio among the foreign born is due in part to the fact that immigrants found to be feeble-minded are not permitted to enter this country.

TABLE 3.—WHITE PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, BY NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE: 1923 AND 1910

NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE	Number January 1, 1923	PER 100,000 POPULATION OF SAME NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE	
		1923	1910
Native white	38,360	47.3	26.5
Native parentage	20,361	34.9	17.0
Foreign parentage	7,393	48.4	[1] 28.6
Mixed parentage	3,346	47.9	
Foreign-born white	1,866	13.6	9.3

[1] Includes mixed parentage.

AGE

The age distribution of patients in institutions for feeble-minded is shown by sex in Table 4. The larger proportion of females than of males in the middle age groups is partly due to the special provision made in some States for the institutional care of feeble-minded women during the child-bearing period.

TABLE 4.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All ages	42,954	21,277	21,677	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	418	237	181	1.0	1.1	0.8
5 to 9 years	2,969	1,799	1,170	6.9	8.5	5.4
10 to 14 years	7,632	4,629	3,003	17.8	21.8	13.9
15 to 19 years	9,326	4,811	4,515	21.7	22.6	20.8
20 to 24 years	6,665	3,632	3,033	15.5	14.3	16.8
25 to 29 years	4,576	2,001	2,575	10.7	9.4	11.9
30 to 34 years	3,511	1,463	2,048	8.2	6.9	9.4
35 to 39 years	2,657	1,085	1,572	6.2	5.1	7.3
40 to 44 years	1,911	798	1,113	4.4	3.8	5.1
45 to 49 years	1,217	486	731	2.8	2.3	3.4
50 to 54 years	758	311	447	1.8	1.5	2.1
55 to 59 years	386	170	216	0.9	0.8	1.0
60 to 64 years	233	115	118	0.5	0.5	0.5
65 to 69 years	123	54	69	0.3	0.3	0.3
70 years and over	92	34	58	0.2	0.2	0.3
Age unknown	480	252	228	1.1	1.2	1.1

MARITAL CONDITION

As shown by Table 5, feeble-minded patients in institutions are mostly unmarried. A large part of them are admitted before reaching a marriageable age, the laws of many States prohibit the marriage of feeble-minded persons, and public sentiment is everywhere opposed to such marriages.

TABLE 5.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, BY MARITAL CONDITION AND SEX: 1923 AND 1910

MARITAL CONDITION	1923				1910			
	Number		Per cent distribution		Number		Per cent distribution	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	21,277	21,677	100.0	100.0	11,015	9,716	100.0	100.0
Single	20,985	20,524	98.6	94.7	10,965	9,558	99.5	98.4
Married	113	726	0.5	3.3	27	83	0.2	0.9
Widowed	19	127	0.1	0.6	17	46	0.2	0.5
Divorced	8	70	(1)	0.3	2	16	(1)	0.2
Unknown	152	230	0.7	1.1	4	13	(1)	0.1

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

NUMBER OF TIMES ADMITTED

Of the 42,954 patients in institutions for feeble-minded on January 1, 1923, tabulated with respect to times admitted, 93.3 per cent had been admitted to such institutions but once, 5.2 per cent but twice, and only 0.6 per cent three times or more.

TABLE 6.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY NUMBER OF TIMES ADMITTED TO SUCH INSTITUTIONS

TIMES ADMITTED	NUMBER OF PATIENTS			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	42,954	21,277	21,677	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 time	40,093	19,605	20,488	93.3	92.1	94.5
2 times	2,238	1,273	965	5.2	6.0	4.5
3 times	191	113	78	0.4	0.5	0.4
4 times	31	20	11	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 times and over	22	14	8	0.1	0.1	(1)
Unknown	379	252	127	0.9	1.2	0.6

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN INSTITUTIONS

The duration of institution life of resident patients in institutions for the feeble-minded is summarized in Table 7. Only 15.1 per cent of the patients had been in the institutions less than one year, while 51 per cent had been in the institutions five years or more. The data of Tables 6 and 7 taken together indicate that a considerable proportion of the patients admitted to institutions for the feeble-minded remain therein for the balance of their lives.

TABLE 7.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS

LENGTH OF INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF PATIENTS			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	42,954	21,277	21,677	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 3 months	1,697	888	809	4.0	4.2	3.7
3 to 6 months	2,337	1,419	918	5.4	6.7	4.2
7 to 11 months	2,462	1,290	1,172	5.7	6.1	5.4
1 year	4,756	2,554	2,202	11.1	12.0	10.2
2 years	3,753	1,877	1,876	8.7	8.8	8.7
3 years	3,648	1,795	1,853	8.5	8.4	8.5
4 years	2,354	1,140	1,214	5.5	5.4	5.6
5 to 9 years	9,862	4,461	5,401	23.0	21.0	24.9
10 to 14 years	5,045	2,469	2,576	11.7	11.6	11.9
15 to 19 years	3,024	1,429	1,595	7.0	6.7	7.4
20 years and over	3,999	1,944	2,055	9.3	9.1	9.5
Unknown	17	11	6	(1)	0.1	(1)

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

FIRST ADMISSIONS—URBAN AND RURAL

First admissions to institutions for feeble-minded from urban and rural territory during 1922 are distributed by mental status and sex in Table 8. Table 9 shows the number of first admissions per 100,000 of the population of the same sex and environment.

TABLE 8.—FIRST ADMISSIONS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED DURING 1922, BY MENTAL STATUS, ENVIRONMENT, AND SEX

MENTAL STATUS	Total number [1]	URBAN						RURAL					
		Number			Per cent distribution			Number			Per cent distribution		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Total	7,259	4,615	2,610	2,005	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,239	1,214	1,025	100.0	100.0	100.0
Idiot	1,064	602	335	267	13.0	12.8	13.3	365	203	162	16.3	16.7	15.8
Imbecile	2,650	1,568	937	631	34.0	35.9	31.5	945	537	408	42.2	44.2	39.8
Moron	3,064	2,181	1,191	990	47.3	45.6	49.4	782	403	379	34.9	33.2	37.0
Unclassified feeble-minded	231	109	50	59	2.4	1.9	2.9	100	48	52	4.5	4.0	5.1
Not feeble-minded	141	100	67	33	2.2	2.6	1.6	27	17	10	1.2	1.4	1.0
Unknown	109	55	30	25	1.2	1.1	1.2	20	6	14	0.9	0.5	1.4

[1] Includes 405 first admissions whose previous environment was not reported.

TABLE 9.—NUMBER OF FIRST ADMISSIONS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED DURING 1922 PER 100,000 POPULATION OF SAME SEX AND ENVIRONMENT, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	PER 100,000 POPULATION OF SAME ENVIRONMENT AND SEX					
	Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
United States	8.5	9.6	7.4	4.4	4.5	4.1
New England	7.2	7.9	6.5	10.8	6.2	15.6
Middle Atlantic	10.2	12.0	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.4
East North Central	9.9	11.9	7.7	5.8	6.9	4.6
West North Central	6.0	6.6	5.4	4.8	4.7	5.0
South Atlantic	7.5	7.9	7.1	3.1	3.3	2.9
East South Central	1.6	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.2
West South Central	2.7	1.2	4.1	1.1	1.3	0.9
Mountain	5.3	5.9	4.6	4.2	4.8	3.6
Pacific	12.4	10.8	14.1	10.8	10.7	11.0

The rates in Table 9 do not indicate the relative prevalence of feeble-mindedness in urban and rural districts. Since social adjustment is much more difficult in cities than in rural districts, it is probable that of the total feeble-minded in the community the proportion sent to institutions is larger in cities than in rural districts. The rates are also affected by the more adequate provision made for the care of the feeble-minded in cities than in rural districts. The States with large urban populations as a rule are also better provided with institutions than States with relatively large rural populations.

DISCHARGES

As shown by Table 10, the patients discharged from institutions for the feeble-minded during 1922 were mostly young persons, 3 out of 4 of them being under 25 years of age. The discharged females averaged older than the discharged males.

TABLE 10.—PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED DURING 1922, BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All ages	2,964	1,703	1,261	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	40	29	11	1.3	1.7	0.9
5 to 9 years	252	152	100	8.5	8.9	7.9
10 to 14 years	508	333	175	17.1	19.6	13.9
15 to 19 years	883	581	302	29.8	34.1	23.9
20 to 24 years	540	267	273	18.2	15.7	21.6
25 to 29 years	274	154	120	9.2	9.0	9.5
30 to 34 years	149	74	75	5.0	4.3	5.9
35 to 39 years	75	34	41	2.5	2.0	3.3
40 to 44 years	61	18	43	2.1	1.1	3.4
45 to 49 years	57	7	50	1.9	0.4	4.0
50 to 54 years	32	5	27	1.1	0.3	2.1
55 to 59 years	9	5	4	0.3	0.3	0.3
60 to 64 years	2		2	0.1		0.2
65 to 69 years	1	1		(1)	0.1	
70 years and over	5	1	4	0.2	0.1	0.3
Age unknown	76	42	34	2.6	2.5	2.7

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

DEATHS

The death rate among the feeble-minded varies with the degree of mental defect, the rate in 1922 among idiots, imbeciles, and morons per 1,000 under treatment being 68.7, 26.7, and 10.1, respectively, as shown by Table 11. In each mental-status group the rate is higher among males than among females. In the moron group the rate approximates that of the general population. The higher death rate among the feeble-minded than in the normal population is due in part to the difference in age distribution.

TABLE 11.—PATIENTS WHO DIED IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED DURING 1922, BY MENTAL STATUS AND SEX

MENTAL STATUS	NUMBER WHO DIED			PER 1,000 UNDER TREATMENT[1]		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All classes	1,347	764	583	28.5	32.2	24.8
Idiot	507	302	205	68.7	80.0	56.8
Imbecile	579	329	250	26.7	29.0	24.2
Moron	165	88	77	10.1	11.6	8.9
Unclassified	65	31	34	59.5	53.9	65.8
Not feeble-minded	11	5	6	23.4	18.7	29.6
Unknown	20	9	11	54.2	45.9	63.6

[1] "Under treatment" includes number resident at end of year plus discharges and deaths during year.

STATISTICS FOR DIVISIONS AND STATES

Table 12 shows wide variations between divisions and between States, both in the number of resident patients and in the number of first admissions, per 100,000 of the population. These differences reflect for the most part existing differences in the provision made for the institutional care of the feeble-minded. They can not be taken as a measure of the relative prevalence of feeble-mindedness in the respective divisions and States.

TABLE 12.—NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, JANUARY 1, 1923, AND NUMBER OF FIRST ADMISSIONS DURING 1922, BY DIVISIONS AND STATES

[Ratios based on population estimated as of July 1, 1922]

DIVISION AND STATE	PRESENT JANUARY 1, 1923				FIRST ADMISSIONS DURING 1922			
	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
	Number	Per 100,000 population			Number	Per 100,000 population		
United States	42,954	39.3	21,277	21,677	7,259	6.6	4,068	3,191
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS:								
New England	5,009	65.7	2,389	2,620	604	7.9	287	317
Middle Atlantic	13,393	58.2	6,615	6,778	2,288	9.9	1,343	945
East North Central	10,323	46.3	5,302	5,021	1,859	8.3	1,147	712
West North Central	6,547	51.2	3,201	3,346	706	5.5	373	333
South Atlantic	2,444	16.9	1,143	1,301	655	4.5	344	311
East South Central	621	6.9	358	263	65	0.7	44	21
West South Central	739	7.0	283	456	222	2.1	90	132
Mountain	731	20.8	402	329	160	4.5	96	64
Pacific	3,147	53.2	1,584	1,563	700	11.8	344	356
NEW ENGLAND:								
Maine	467	60.3	207	260	104	13.4	10	94
New Hampshire	393	88.1	189	204	38	8.5	16	22
Vermont	179	50.8	40	139	55	15.6	5	50
Massachusetts	3,034	76.3	1,529	1,505	332	8.3	222	110
Rhode Island	377	60.8	164	213	36	5.8	14	22
Connecticut	559	38.6	260	299	39	2.7	20	19
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:								
New York	7,278	67.9	3,629	3,649	1,554	14.5	896	658
New Jersey	1,633	49.3	702	931	287	8.7	194	93
Pennsylvania	4,482	49.8	2,284	2,198	447	5.0	253	194
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:								
Ohio	2,510	41.7	1,367	1,143	360	6.0	260	100
Indiana	1,565	52.4	728	837	165	5.5	112	53
Illinois	2,458	36.7	1,262	1,196	358	5.3	186	172
Michigan	2,132	54.8	1,152	980	615	15.8	398	217
Wisconsin	1,658	61.2	793	865	361	13.3	191	170
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:								
Minnesota	1,892	76.7	931	961	201	8.1	98	103
Iowa	1,596	65.1	780	816	155	6.3	84	71
Missouri	779	22.7	309	470	57	1.7	23	34
North Dakota	338	50.8	178	160	31	4.7	13	18
South Dakota	424	65.2	222	202	79	12.2	47	32
Nebraska	751	56.8	399	352	91	6.9	50	41
Kansas	767	42.9	382	385	92	5.1	58	34
SOUTH ATLANTIC:[1]								
Delaware	50	21.9	20	30	24	10.5	11	13
Maryland	773	51.9	371	402	100	6.7	58	42
Virginia	644	27.1	303	341	106	4.5	55	51
West Virginia	359	23.5	158	201	94	6.2	33	61
North Carolina	308	11.6	131	177	165	6.2	73	92
South Carolina	123	7.1	67	56	23	1.3	19	4
Georgia	47	1.6	24	23	10	0.3	5	5
Florida	140	13.7	69	71	133	13.0	90	43
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:[1]								
Kentucky	531	21.7	279	252	43	1.8	25	18
Tennessee	15	0.6	4	11	3	0.1		3
Mississippi	75	4.2	75		19	1.1	19	
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:								
Arkansas	7	0.4	7		3	0.2	3	
Louisiana	170	9.3	90	80	115	6.3	59	56
Oklahoma	330	15.5	136	194	54	2.5	21	33
Texas	232	4.8	50	182	50	1.0	7	43
MOUNTAIN:[1]								
Montana	91	15.3	55	36	14	2.4	8	6
Idaho	253	55.1	130	123	58	12.6	37	21
Wyoming	128	61.9	73	55	37	17.9	25	12
Colorado	259	26.5	144	115	51	5.2	26	25
PACIFIC:								
Washington	803	56.9	439	364	165	11.7	90	75
Oregon	675	83.1	323	352	162	20.0	54	108
California	1,669	45.1	822	847	373	10.1	200	173

[1] States for which no institutions were reported are not shown.

PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS

NUMBER OF PATIENTS

The census of epileptics in institutions, taken in 1923, was the first special census of epileptics taken by the Census Bureau. This census showed 8,777 epileptics in institutions for epileptics, 4,159 in institutions for the feeble-minded (these patients being both feeble-minded and epileptic), 10,016 in institutions for the insane, and 1,066 in almshouses, making a total of 24,018 under institutional care.

No adequate data exist relative to the number of epileptics in the population at large. It is believed, however, that the number greatly exceeds the number in institutions. Available data also give no clew as to the probable increase or decrease of epilepsy.

TABLE 13.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923

[Ratios based on population estimated as of July 1, 1922]

STATE	Number	Per 100,000 of total population	STATE	Number	Per 100,000 of total population
United States	8,777	8.0	Mississippi	4	0.2
			Nebraska	93	7.0
Arkansas	4	0.2	New Jersey	769	23.2
California	15	0.4	New York	1,562	14.6
Illinois	245	3.7	North Carolina	193	7.3
Indiana	416	13.9	Ohio	1,729	28.7
Iowa	424	17.3			
			Pennsylvania	178	2.0
Kansas	533	29.8	Texas	605	12.4
Maryland	12	0.8	West Virginia	188	12.3
Massachusetts	1,140	28.7	Wisconsin	1	(1)
Michigan	664	17.1	Wyoming	2	1.0

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per 100,000.

COLOR OR RACE

Of the 8,777 patients in institutions for epileptics, 8,601, or 98 per cent, were whites; 173, or 2 per cent, were negroes; and 3 were Indians. Of the whites, 4,636, or 53.9 per cent, were males and 3,965, or 46.1 per cent, were females; and of the negroes 103, or 59.5 per cent, were males and 70, or 40.5 per cent, were females. The whites and the negroes are distributed by States in Table 14. The very low ratio of negro patients in the entire United States probably is due to the fact that in many States negroes are not admitted to the institutions as readily as are whites.

TABLE 14.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY COLOR OR RACE

STATE	WHITE		NEGRO		STATE	WHITE		NEGRO	
	Number	Per 100,000 of same race	Number	Per 100,000 of same race		Number	Per 100,000 of same race	Number	Per 100,000 of same race
United States	8,601	9.1	173	1.7	Mississippi	4	0.5	------	------
					Nebraska	93	7.3	------	------
Arkansas	4	0.3	------	------	New Jersey	735	24.2	34	29.0
California	15	0.5	------	------	New York	1,543	15.2	19	9.6
Illinois	239	3.8	6	3.3	North Carolina	193	10.8	------	------
Indiana	409	14.4	7	8.7	Ohio	1,671	30.0	58	31.2
Iowa	419	17.6	4	21.0					
					Pennsylvania	177	2.1	1	0.4
Kansas	510	29.8	22	38.0	Texas	605	15.4	------	------
Maryland	12	1.0	------	------	West Virginia	188	13.7	------	------
Massachusetts	1,124	29.6	16	35.2	Wisconsin	1	(1)	------	------
Michigan	657	18.2	6	10.0	Wyoming	2	1.1	------	------

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per 100,000.

NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE

Table 15 shows the nativity and parentage of white patients in institutions for epilepties, together with the number of patients per 100,000 of the general population of the same nativity and parentage. The comparatively low ratio of foreign-born patients to foreign-born population is probably due to the fact that immigrants found to have epilepsy are excluded from this country.

TABLE 15.—WHITE PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE

NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE	Number	Per 100,000 population of same nativity and parentage
Native white	7,803	9.6
Native parentage	4,225	7.2
Foreign parentage	1,494	9.5
Mixed parentage	664	9.5
Foreign-born white	736	5.4

AGE

The age distribution of patients in institutions for epileptics is shown by sex in Table 16. About 3 per cent were under 10 years of age, 56 per cent between 15 and 40 years of age, and 4 per cent 65 years of age and over.

TABLE 16.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All ages	8,777	4,741	4,036	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	22	10	12	0.3	0.2	0.3
5 to 9 years	228	139	89	2.6	2.9	2.2
10 to 14 years	636	343	293	7.2	7.2	7.3
15 to 19 years	968	564	404	11.0	11.9	10.0
20 to 24 years	1,093	596	497	12.5	12.6	12.3
25 to 29 years	1,040	589	451	11.8	12.4	11.2
30 to 34 years	959	482	477	10.9	10.2	11.8
35 to 39 years	895	475	420	10.2	10.0	10.4
40 to 44 years	781	387	394	8.9	8.2	9.8
45 to 49 years	687	345	342	7.8	7.3	8.5
50 to 54 years	499	262	237	5.7	5.5	5.9
55 to 59 years	349	200	149	4.0	4.2	3.7
60 to 64 years	256	146	110	2.9	3.1	2.7
65 to 69 years	173	98	75	2.0	2.1	1.9
70 years and over	156	91	65	1.8	1.9	1.6
Age unknown	35	14	21	0.4	0.3	0.5

MARITAL CONDITION

Patients in institutions for epileptics are for the most part unmarried. A large proportion of them enter the institutions comparatively young, and public opinion and the disorder itself are deterrents to marriage. Also, the marriage laws of some States forbid the marriage of epileptics.

TABLE 17.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY MARITAL CONDITION AND SEX

MARITAL CONDITION	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	8,777	4,741	4,036	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	7,188	3,996	3,192	81.9	84.3	79.1
Married	1,077	485	592	12.3	10.2	14.7
Widowed	320	144	176	3.6	3.0	4.4
Divorced	135	83	52	1.5	1.8	1.3
Unknown	57	33	24	0.6	0.7	0.6

NUMBER OF TIMES ADMITTED

Table 18 shows that of the patients in institutions for epileptics on January 1, 1923, 81.1 per cent had been admitted but once, 14.9 per cent twice, and 2.5 per cent three times or more. In the cases of 1.6 per cent, the number of times admitted was not ascertained.

TABLE 18.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF TIMES ADMITTED TO SUCH INSTITUTIONS

TIMES ADMITTED	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	8,777	4,741	4,036	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 time	7,114	3,785	3,329	81.1	79.8	82.5
2 times	1,307	732	575	14.9	15.5	14.2
3 times	155	102	53	1.8	2.2	1.3
4 times	38	24	14	0.4	0.5	0.3
5 times and over	25	21	4	0.3	0.4	0.1
Unknown	138	77	61	1.6	1.6	1.5

LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN INSTITUTIONS

The length of time spent in institutions for epileptics is shown for resident patients in Table 19. Nearly one-fourth of the patients had been in the institutions less than 2 years, somewhat less than one-half from 2 to 9 years, and somewhat over one-fourth 10 years or more.

TABLE 19.—PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, BY LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS

LENGTH OF INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENCE	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	8,777	4,741	4,036	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 3 months	290	174	116	3.3	3.7	2.9
3 to 6 months	402	255	147	4.6	5.4	3.6
7 to 11 months	545	333	212	6.2	7.0	5.3
1 year	930	500	430	10.6	10.5	10.7
2 years	748	425	323	8.5	9.0	8.0
3 years	765	429	336	8.7	9.0	8.3
4 years	586	314	272	6.7	6.6	6.7
5 to 9 years	2,166	1,188	978	24.7	25.1	24.2
10 to 14 years	1,204	633	571	13.7	13.4	14.1
15 to 19 years	697	312	385	7.9	6.6	9.5
20 years and over	440	178	262	5.0	3.8	6.5
Unknown	4		4	(1)		0.1

[1] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

FIRST ADMISSIONS—URBAN AND RURAL

The environment of first admissions to institutions for epileptics during 1922 is shown by type of epilepsy and sex in Table 20.

TABLE 20.—FIRST ADMISSIONS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS DURING 1922, BY ENVIRONMENT, TYPE OF EPILEPSY, AND SEX

TYPE OF EPILEPSY	Total number [1]	URBAN						RURAL					
		Number			Per cent distribution			Number			Per cent distribution		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	1,421	909	571	338	100.0	100.0	100.0	463	305	158	100.0	100.0	100.0
Symptomatic	224	166	109	57	18.3	19.1	16.9	56	35	21	12.1	11.5	13.3
Idiopathic	1,107	698	431	267	76.8	75.5	79.0	378	247	131	81.6	81.0	82.9
Not epileptic	57	23	10	13	2.5	1.8	3.8	19	13	6	4.1	4.3	3.8
Unknown	33	22	21	1	2.4	3.7	0.3	10	10		2.2	3.3	

[1] Includes 49 first admissions whose previous environment was not reported.

During 1922, the ratio of first admissions per 100,000 of the population in urban districts was 1.7; in rural districts, 0.9. The ratio for males was 2.1 in urban districts and 1.1 in rural districts; the ratio for females was 1.2 in urban districts and 0.6 in rural districts. The higher ratios in urban than in rural districts do not necessarily imply that epilepsy is more prevalent in urban than in rural districts, as it is likely that a larger proportion of epileptics in urban districts reach institutions.

DISCHARGES

Table 21 shows that a large proportion of the patients discharged from institutions for epileptics during 1922 were young persons, 52.4 per cent of them being under 25 years of age. The average age of females discharged was lower than that of males discharged.

TABLE 21.—PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS DURING 1922, BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	NUMBER			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All ages	774	574	200	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	2	2		0.3	0.3	
5 to 9 years	30	17	13	3.9	3.0	6.5
10 to 14 years	69	46	23	8.9	8.0	11.5
15 to 19 years	127	88	39	16.4	15.3	19.5
20 to 24 years	177	132	45	22.9	23.0	22.5
25 to 29 years	116	94	22	15.0	16.4	11.0
30 to 34 years	93	76	17	12.0	13.2	8.5
35 to 39 years	56	41	15	7.2	7.1	7.5
40 to 44 years	32	21	11	4.1	3.7	5.5
45 to 49 years	17	13	4	2.2	2.3	2.0
50 to 54 years	20	15	5	2.6	2.6	2.5
55 to 59 years	9	8	1	1.2	1.4	0.5
60 to 64 years	9	7	2	1.2	1.2	1.0
65 to 69 years	2	2		0.3	0.3	
70 years and over	2	2		0.3	0.3	
Age unknown	13	10	3	1.7	1.7	1.5

During 1922, the rate of discharges from institutions for epileptics per 100 admissions was 45.4. Of each group of 45.4 patients discharged, 1.2 were discharged as recovered, 20.7 as improved, 21.6 as unimproved, 0.2 as not epileptic and for 1.8 the condition was not reported.

DEATHS

As shown by Table 22, 581 patients died in institutions for epileptics during 1922. Of these, 355 were males and 226 were females. The death rate per 1,000 under treatment was 62.6 for males, 50.6 for females, and 57.3 for both sexes combined. The median age group for each sex at death was 35 to 39 years. This comparatively low age supports the belief that epilepsy greatly shortens life.

TABLE 22.—NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO DIED IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS DURING 1922, WITH DEATH RATE PER 1,000 UNDER TREATMENT, BY TYPE OF EPILEPSY

TYPE OF EPILEPSY	NUMBER WHO DIED			PER 1,000 UNDER TREATMENT [1]		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	581	355	226	57.3	62.6	50.6
Symptomatic	130	92	38	88.4	103.1	65.7
Idiopathic	443	258	185	53.0	55.9	49.3
Not epileptic	3	1	2	14.1	10.8	16.7
Unknown	5	4	1	56.8	54.8	66.7

[1] "Under treatment" includes number resident at end of year plus discharges and deaths during year.

STATISTICS FOR STATES

The statistics presented for the entire United States show that the rate of epilepsy is influenced by such factors as the color and nativity distribution of the population, and its sex and age composition. While these factors vary considerably among the different States, it is not believed they account to any considerable extent for the wide differences in rates shown by Table 23. For the most part these differences indicate differences among the States in the extent of institutional care of epileptics. They do not indicate the relative prevalence of epilepsy in the several States.

TABLE 23.—NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR EPILEPTICS, JANUARY 1, 1923, AND NUMBER OF FIRST ADMISSIONS DURING 1922, BY STATES

[Ratios based on population estimated as of July 1, 1922]

STATE	PRESENT JANUARY 1, 1923				FIRST ADMISSIONS DURING 1922			
	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
	Number	Per 100,000 population			Number	Per 100,000 population		
United States	[1] 8,777	8.0	4,741	4,036	1,421	1.3	900	521
Arkansas	4	0.2	4	-------	2	0.1	2	-------
California	15	0.4	7	8	12	0.3	8	4
Illinois	245	3.7	181	64	80	1.2	58	22
Indiana	416	13.9	416	-------	61	2.0	61	-------
Iowa	424	17.3	211	213	98	4.0	56	42
Kansas	533	29.8	303	230	59	3.3	35	24
Maryland	[1] 12	0.8	10	2	5	0.3	5	-------
Massachusetts	1,140	28.7	590	580	188	4.7	114	74
Michigan	664	17.1	314	350	67	1.7	22	45
Mississippi	4	0.2	4	-------	12	0.7	12	-------
Nebraska	93	7.0	51	42	16	1.2	10	6
New Jersey	769	23.2	380	389	115	3.5	65	50
New York	1,562	14.6	791	771	250	2.3	150	100
North Carolina	193	7.3	117	76	42	1.6	33	9
Ohio	1,729	28.7	874	855	221	3.7	134	87
Pennsylvania	178	2.0	61	117	37	0.4	23	14
Texas	605	12.4	332	273	128	2.6	90	38
West Virginia	188	12.3	122	66	25	1.6	19	6
Wisconsin	1	[2]	1	-------	1	[2]	1	-------
Wyoming	2	1.0	2	-------	2	1.0	2	-------

[1] Exclusive of 20 patients for whom individual schedules were not received.
[2] Less than one-tenth of 1 per 100,000.

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